CHALAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. For manufacture of potassium iodate, iodine, which is not being manufactured in the country is imported in bulk. Small scale units produce potassium iodate in the country.

(c) No shortage of iodised salt has been reported from any part of the country. Against the target of 7 lakh tonnes of iodised salt fixed for the year 1986-87, the actual production was 7.73 lakh tonnes. The target for this financial year has been fixed at 12 lakh tonnes. Against this target, a production of 13.8 lakh tonnes has already been achieved till January, 1988.

Workshop on Pesticides

3434. SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNIDO had organised a workshop on pesticides through the Hindustan Insecticides Limited recently and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether the HIL had given the pride of place to some members of Pesticide Association of India, including multinationals belonging to it and Indian Explosives Limited; and

(c) whether the HIL had been approached by a natonal voluntary agency to attend some sessions as observer but permission was not given and if so, what were the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. A 5-week International Training Programme on quality control of Pesticides formulation was organised as a part of PEST programme sponsored by the World Bank, FAO, UNDP and UNIDO in New Delhi in October-November, 1987. Representatives from China, Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, India and Srilanka participated in the programme.

(b) Since the selection was made by the respective countries and finally by the World Bank, the question of HIL, who were the regional coordinator for the programme, having given pride of place to anyone does not arise. There were three participants from India, none of them from Indian Explosives Limited.

(c) As it was only a 'Training Programme' and not a 'Seminar', there was no question of allowing anybody as "observer". Since HIL was only a coordinator and not a sponsorer in this programme, the question of giving permission by them does not arise.

डाकतार विभाग की जोनल स्तर पर बैठकें

3435. **श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :** क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या संचार मंत्रालय/संसद सदस्यों के साथ रेल मंत्रालय की भांति जोनल स्तर पर अपनी बैठक करने का विचार रखती है ; यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि बहुत थोड़े संसद सदस्य महाडाकपाल द्वारा बुलाई गई सर्किल स्तर की बैठकों, जिनमें राज्य को सर्किल माना जाता है, में इसलिए भाग नहीं लेते क्योंकि उन्हें सार्थक नहीं समझते ; और

(ग) क्या डाकतार विभाग ने देश में राज्य स्तर पर उपभोक्ता सलाहकार समितियां बनायी हैं, यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है और यदि नहीं, तो किस मंच पर उपभोक्ताओं के लिए सुविधाओं से संबंधित मामलों पर विचार किया जाता है ?